

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ACDA-07 OMB-01 SSM-03 AID-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OCL-00
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O P 011230Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3769
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING EO LINE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, SU, EG

SUBJECT: MENGISTU RESTRAINED AT MAY DAY RALLY

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" TOOK SOME KNOCKS, SUDAN PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND EGYPT PRESIDENT SADAT TOOK BRUNT OF ATTACKS IN MAY DAY SPEECH OF PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM DURING YET ANOTHER LARGE RALLY IN REVOLUTION SQUARE. MENGISTU REFERRED TO U.S. ONLY BRIEFLY IN TWO CONTEXTS: CLOSING DOWN OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ("FOUNTAINS OF ESPIONAGE AND EXPLOITATION AS WELL AS ELEMENTS THAT DILUTED OUR CULTURE") AND WHAT WE PRESUME TO HAVE BEEN REFERENCE TO TERMINATION OF 1953 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (SEE REFTEL). MENGISTU SHARPLY CONDEMNED NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES' ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE ETHIOPIAN UNITY THROUGH ARMED INTER-
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VENTION DESIGNED TO BREAK ERITREA FROM REST OF COUNTRY. HE WARNED SUDAN, EGYPT, AND SAUDI ARABIA TO "RECOGNIZE THAT NO LASTING PEACE IS POSSIBLE IN RED SEA REGION UNLESS ETHIOPIA'S RIGHTS AND INTERESTS IN AREA, WHICH DATE BACK TO MILLENNIA, ARE RESPECTED AND RECOGNIZED". REJECTING CHARGES THAT ETHIOPIA WAS POISED TO INVADE SUDAN, MENGISTU CLAIMED THAT MACHINATIONS OF IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR STOOGES AROUND RED SEA WERE LINKED TO ANTI-POPULAR STRATEGY ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA,

ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO WEAKEN AND DESTROY ANGOLA BEFORE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC THERE COULD BE CONSOLIDATED. MENGISTU DENIGRATED ARAB
TALK OF ISRAELI PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, SAYING THAT THOSE LOOKING
FOR ISRAELIS COULD FIND THEM IN SINAI DESERT, GOLAN HEIGHTS, AND OTHER
OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. HE SUPPORTED EFFORTS OF DJIBOUTI POP-
ULATION TO FORM NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ITS OWN WILL WITHOUT EXTER-
NAL PRESSURES. ON DOMESTIC FRONT, MENGISTU SAID NEED FOR PRO-
LETARIAN WORKING CLASS PARTY HAD BECOME MORE URGENT TO GUARANTEE
SUCCESS OF REVOLUTION. MENGISTU'S SPEECH CONTAINED ONLY " "
INDIRECT REFERENCE TO EXPECTED MOBILIZATION OF MILITIA TO REVERSE
MILITARY LOSSES IN NORTH. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER EXCITEMENT OF EMBASSY EVACUATION OPERATION DURING PAST
WEEK, THIS YEAR'S MAY DAY RALLY CAME AS ANTICLIMAX. ANTI-AMERICAN
SENTIMENT, THOUGH PRESENT IN SOME SIGN SLOGANS, CHANTING, AND VARIOUS
REFERENCES DURING RALLY SPEECHES, WAS NOT HIGHLIGHTED AND TOOK
DISTINCTLY SECONDARY PLACE TO THEMES OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS'
SOLIDARITY, NEED FOR PROLETARIAT PARTY IN ETHIOPIA, AND ARAB CON-
SPIRACY TO DISMEMBER COUNTRY. PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU TOUCHED
BRIEFLY AT OUTSET OF HIS SPEECH ON CLOSURE OF US INSTALLATIONS
AND ELIMINATION THEREBY OF FOUNTAINS OF ESPIONAGE AND EXPLOITATION
AS HISTORIC VICTORY OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT
AGREEMENTS BETWEEN FASCIST HAILE SELASSIE AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM
HAD BEEN TERMINATED, PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO NOTE DELIVERED TO
EMBASSY APRIL 30 OFFICIALLY ENDING 1953 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE
AND KAGNEW BASE AGREEMENTS (SEPTEL).

2. MENGISTU LISTED RECENT REVOLUTIONARY ACHIEVEMENTS, SUCH AS
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CREATION OF ALL ETHIOPIAN TRADE UNION IN JANUARY, ARMING OF WORKERS,
PEASANTS, AND URBAN DWELLERS, WEEDING OUT OF ANARCHISTS AND INFIL-
TRATORS, AND CREATION OF REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE SQUADS. AT SAME TIME,
MILITARY SITUATION ON NORTHERN AND WESTERN BORDERS WAS DETERIORATING,
WITH HEAVY FIGHTING TAKING PLACE AT TESSENEY AND EL AIGHEDIR. HE
ASKED FOR INCREASED EFFORTS TO "STOP COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY PLOT
MATERMINDED BY IMPERIALISM WITH COOPERATION OF SURROUNDING RE-
ACTIONARY FORCES IN COLLABORATION WITH INTERNAL ENEMIES...CHARGING
THAT ARMED INTERVENTION WAS SUPPORTED BY SUDANESE IN THEIR PAY,
TANKS AND ARTILLERY", MENGISTU CLAIMED THAT PREPARATIONS BEING
FINALIZED TO WITHSTAND AGGRESSION AND CRUSH ENEMIES OF MASSES.
(THIS WAS HIS ONLY REFERENCE IN SPEECH TO CURRENT MOBILIZATION OF
MILITIA FOR PREDICTED OFFENSIVE IN NORTH.)

3. ADDRESSING ERITREA AND RED SEA AT LENGTH, MENGISTU CLAIMED THAT
IMPERIALIST AND REACTIONARY ARABS HAD ALWAYS DIRECTED ERITREAN
INSURGENCY BEHIND SCENES, WITH VIEW TO BRINGING RED SEA UNDER
SAUDI ARABIAN, EGYPTIAN, AND SUDANESE CONTROL. ARAB ARMED IN-
TERVENTION, NOW OPENLY DESIGNED TO DISMEMBER ERITREA FROM REST OF

COUNTRY, WAS PART OF ANTI-POPULAR STRATEGY TARGETED PARTICULARLY AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND ANGOLA. THIS STRATEGY INCLUDED SPREADING BASE-LESS RUMORS TO EFFECT THAT ETHIOPIA ABOUT TO INVADE HER NEIGHBORS, CLAIMING THAT ISRAEL WAS BACK IN ETHIOPIA, DEPCITING ANGOLA AS AGGRESSOR WITH OBJECT OF WEAKENING AND DESTROYING THAT COUNTRY BEFORE IT CONSOLIDATED THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC FORMED AFTER PROTRACTED STRUGGLE, AND ARMING AND TRYING TO REGROUN FNLA AND UNITA. MENGISTU REMINDED ARABS THAT ISRAEL WAS PRESENT NOT IN ETHIOPIA, BUT AT ARABS "OWN GATES ON OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

4. ACCUSING NIMEIRI AS MAIN TOOL AND COLLABORATOR OF ENEMIES OF BROAD MASSES NOW INVADING ETHIOPIA, MENGISTU LAUNCED SHARP ATTACK AGAINST SADAT WHO "HAS BEEN BOASTING THAT HE WOULD BE FIGHTING ALONG-SIDE NIMEIRI IF ETHIOPIA INVADED SUDAN, AND THE AIR AND NAVAL MANOEUVRES HE CONDUCTED RECENTLY ARE CLEAR PROOF OF GROUNDWORK HE IS LAYING IN PREPARATION OF CAMPAIGN HE IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH AGAINST ETHIOPIA." MENGISTU ASSURED CROWD THAT SADAT'S WAR-MONGERING ACTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD NOT POISION LONG-STANDING RELATIONS BETWEEN OPPRESSED ETHIOPIAN AND EGYPTIAN MASSES.

5. ANTICIPATING DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE, MENGISTU OFFERED SUPPORT FOR SETTING UP NATIONAL DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT OF ITS OWN WILL WITHOUT EXTERNAL PRESSURE. HE WARNED THAT ETHIOPIA WAS CLOSELY FOLLOWING "PLOTS BEING HATCHED AGAINST OUR COMMON INTEREST BY IMPERIALISTS AND SURROUNDING REACTIONARY RULING REGIMES." THIS WAS AS CLOSE AS ANYONE CAME TO MENTIONING SOMALIA ALL DAY LONG.

6. ALTHOUGH MARCH THROUGH STADIUM OF MASSES AFTER SPEECHES WENT ON FOR 5 1/2 HOURS, TONE OF RALLY WAS MORE RESTRAINED THAN MOST OTHERS IN RECENT MONTHS. MENGISTU HIMSELF WAS MORE SUBDUES THAN ON RECENT PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. FIVE SPEAKERS PRECEDED HIM, BUT ONLY ONE, THE KEBELE REP, HAD MUCH TO SAY ABOUT US. THERE WERE NO MORE THEN 10 ENGLISH LANGUAGE SLOGANS REFERRING TO US - "YANKEE GO HOME", "GOODBYE YANKEE MISSIONARIES, WELCOME SOCIALIST FRIENDS," AND TWO OR THREE SUPPORTING THE RECENT CLOSURE OF US INSTALLATIONS. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ONE REFERENCE TO CIA IN MENGISTU'S SPEECH (NOT IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION), BUT THERE WERE NO OTHER REFERENCE THAT WE COULD DETECT EITHER IN SPEECHES OR PLACARDS.

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Message Attributes

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